

Join the C.L.C. (L.B.)
now and help the fight
for freedom in B.G.

CARIBBEAN NEWS 6d.

September-October

1953

HANDS OFF GUIANA!

The British Tories have smashed the B.G. Constitution which enabled the P.P.P. to win the recent elections. Because they are on the side of the workers and are not supporting Big Business to break the sugar strike they are thrown out at the planters' demand.

The labour movement in Britain is already following the lead of the C.L.C.(L.B.) in demanding withdrawal of troops and restoration of the elected government.

Strike scared bosses

SUGAR MILLS are now quiet in British Guiana. Not a labourer works in the fields, as fifty thousand sugar employees in field and factory enter the fifth week of their unbroken colony-wide strike—greatest in the history of this colony.

Responding to a strike call by the Guiana Industrial Workers' Union (an affiliate of the Agricultural Workers' section of the W.F.T.U.) on August 31st, about 50,000 sugar estate workers have completely shut down the sugar industry of British Guiana.

All of the 26 sugar plantations including 14 sugar manufacturing factories have answered the strike call for improved working conditions, better pay and recognition of the union by the Sugar Producers' Association. The demands include 15 per cent increase for field workers, 5 per cent per hour increase for factory workers, the abolition of cut and load system, or an increase in cut and loading canes to 7 shillings per ton, Government sworn weighers at cane scales, pay for time spent waiting on punts to load cane, reinstatement of workers victimised from previous strikes, basic rates for all operations in the field and standardisation of tasks for field workers, and better drinking water supply in the cane fields.

(continued on page 6)



AT THE FESTIVAL. Part of the West Indian delegation in Bucharest preparing to march with their banner in the closing demonstration.

SEE PAGE 5 for reports of the YOUTH Festival.

Jamaica campaigns against Crown Colony Federation

IN Jamaica a Committee has been set up by the People's Educational Organisation to draft a strong Programme for action to fight against Crown Government Federation, and to fight militantly for Federation with Dominion Status.

Jamaica is now conducting a wide "Poster Campaign" with the slogan: **THE CLARION — THE VOICE OF THE CARIBBEAN. NO FEDERATION WITHOUT DOMINION STATUS.**

In one night alone, a team of 16 canvassers of the committee posted no less than 120 posters at ideal points, including the Kings Street statues, which make the posters easily recognisable from a great distance.

On all public platforms, speakers have been provided to popularise and expose this blatant political and economic fraud committed by the British Imperialists against the people of the Caribbean.

TRINIDAD T.U.C. SEEKS SOCIAL INSURANCE

THE Trinidad and Tobago Trades Union Council of the African report.

organised a Conference on Social Insurance and Social Security at the Town Hall San Fernando on Sunday 16th August, 1953. The conference was the first of its kind in our country. It was attended by a Borough Councillor, a County Councillor, delegates from a friendly society and the Pan African League from the Women's Auxiliary Group of the Oilfield Workers' Trade Union and the West Indian Independence Party. The Hon. E. T. Joshua, member of the Executive Council and Legislative Council of St. Vincent, was the guest of the conference.

The reports of Oveste Lizarde for the Italian Delegation, Henri Raynaud for the French Delegation, L. V. Soloviev for the Russian Delegation, and the memorandum prepared by the Trinidad and Tobago Trades Union Council and the West Indian Independence Party on Social Insurance and Social Security of Trinidad and Tobago were read and discussed. Time did not allow for the presentation

Joint Action

The Conference called for a Caribbean conference on Social Insurance and Social Security, and for joint action between the Trades Union Council and the local International Confederation of Free Trades Unions affiliates to solve the unemployment problem. The letter to the local I.C.F.T.U., affiliates has already been forwarded.

It was noticed that there was an International Conference recommendation to hold a conference in Latin America in 1954. Our conference renewed the call for that conference.

It was also announced that there will be two Unemployment demonstrations held on Sunday 6th September, in Point Fortin, and Monday 7 September, in Port-of-Spain, as a means of stepping up the struggle for Social Insurance and Social Security.

IMPERIALIST IMPOSED BANS LIFTED BY P.P.P. LEGISLATORS

THE majority party in the new House of Assembly, the People's Progressive Party, which won 18 of the 24 seats in April 27th elections, yesterday introduced and passed a bill to repeal the Undesirable Publications Ordinance, 1953.

This ordinance had been passed two months prior to the first elections under universal suffrage in an effort to suppress the activities of the militant P.P.P., which had been distributing literature on a mass scale.

Cheddi Jagan, leader of the House and Minister of Agriculture, said that this move to repeal the "subversive literature bill" was the first move by his Party to wipe from the statute books all those laws which were forced upon the people by the ruling class, in order to maintain their power.

Every dog . . .

When Dr. Jagan was the only virulent opponent to the Undesirable Publication Bill passed by the former Legislative Council, and spoke for seven hours to delay the passage of the Bill, he had told the legislators "every dog has his day".

Yesterday, he reminded them that the day had come and the people's representatives were now repealing the undemocratic law which sought to prohibit books from entering the Colony. Dr. Jagan bitterly attacked Jamaica's leader Bustamante for allowing book banning and banning of persons from Jamaica and condemned the "impounding" of passports of persons wishing to travel abroad.

He referred to the recent move by the Jamaica government to prevent youth leaders from leaving the colony to attend the World Festival of Youth in Bucharest.

'Impudence'

Ashton Chase, Minister of Labour, called the old law an "atrocious piece of legislation", and Assemblyman Fred Bowman, former sugar worker, referred to the "impudence of the instigators of the Bill" who wanted to keep the working class in ignorance in order to maintain its position of power.

L. F. S. Burnham, Minister of Education declared "We don't want another McCarty in British Guiana." The bill repealing the old legislation now goes to the nominated State Council (upper house) and the Governor for assent.



LAST WEEK the leader of the House, Cheddi Jagan, announced that the bans imposed by the British Guiana government on important West Indian labour leaders had been lifted.

These bans declared before the People's Progressive Party won the elections prevented Ferdinand Smith, W.F.T.U., Jamaica born from entering B.G., also Richard Hart, Secretary of the Caribbean Labour Congress, Billy Strachan, Secretary C.L.C. (London Branch) and Jamaica born; John La Rose, Secretary West Indian Independence Party, Trinidad, Quintin O'Connor, Secretary Trinidad T.U.C., and John Rojas, President Oilworkers Union, Trinidad.

This move opens the doors of British Guiana to all Caribbean leaders who are planning an important Caribbean Labour Conference this year.

LETTER BOX

POVERTY AND DISEASE

DR. D. B. Yelliffe, Lecturer at U.C.W.I., is reported by the "Gleaner" (15/6/53) to have said that liver disease was a most startling thing in Jamaica, and prevalent among the poorer peasant-class of children.

Said the doctor: "The cause was largely based on malnutrition and misuse of certain bush tea". He also said that malnutrition was not due to vitamin deficiency but to lack of protein.

'COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT' — THE CAPITALIST WAY

IN 1948, Mr. Robinson, a Tory M.P., obtained a loan of £205,371 for his company, to further exploit the gold resources of British Guiana.

He's doing well too. A few months ago he reported via the annual report of the British Guiana Consolidated Goldfields Ltd., that productions had soared to 18,567 ounces. His profit this year is £73,831.

Who's Jim Griffiths or Oliver Lyttleton, to try and pull this one over our eyes? Colonial Development Corporation funds were raised from taxpayers in England—see the swiz? Robinson & Co. reap double benefit at both our expense and that of the British workers. Capitalists' political theory in practice. This is only one example, but for a real exposure of the shocking miseries heaped on colonial people, see R. P. Dutt's "Crisis of Britain and the British Empire."

But let's return to the "practice"; Robinson & Co. has repaid £26,667, but now has mutually agreed NOT to repay any further until December 31st., 1956, and then that will only be the first instalment of fifteen annual ones. Whew! Colonial development?

No one is fooled to-day, and PPP victory is a truly timely warning to the cunning group of phoney two-cent politicians that have oppressed us with bible and sword, tear-gas and bayonet. This is not high finance, it is USA-Chicago methods.

OUR OWN

One day soon, there will be a Colonial Development. After the Peoples' Parties have swept the puppet governments in the British Caribbean from power and set up a Federal Democratic State, we will really develop—immediate industrialisation, subsidised agriculture, national state bank and fair reciprocal trade, where it will benefit the West Indies. No one else but with those countries that have no necessary economic interest in acquiring or controlling our wealth, that is, those countries that are based on a socialist economy.

B.G. Gold, Bauxite, Uranium and some 300 other minerals are our corner stones—what more glittering base for a Peoples Democracy standing firmly astride the dazzling blue Caribbean.

Now, acknowledging Jamaica as an agricultural island, we are entitled to ask why can't the island develop the amenities which contain these substances for the healthy living of the working masses—viewing the advancement in the field of scientific methods which are used against these evils in other countries?

We deem it right in saying that the scientific knowledge and the resources of Jamaica are not being exploited for the benefit of the masses on the whole, but for immense profits for a few.

It can also be said that had 25% of these profits been used for the welfare of the masses, then dire poverty and such diseases arising therefrom could have been something of the past, instead of a nightmare of the working masses.

Ralph Bennett

BILLY'S CORNER

Tinpot Politician

... as I walk down the Strand, I think of my homeland. . . and remember an eminent lawyer who poses as a politician in Jamaica, telling another West Indian and myself, that West Indians must not interfere in international matters.

But now Grantley Adams (Barbados) spends very little time in Barbados; Geneva, London, Stockholm, etc., are his playgrounds, he's accompanied by Michael Manley, who now dabbles in the politico-trade union problems of a suspicious body known as the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

Poor tinpot politician, even if a successful bourgeois advocate, standing like Canute, forehead high in the Caribbean fed from the seven seas and a million rivers.

Sugar Pact

The London national press tells us of the International Sugar Pact, which among other things restricts our sugar production. It curtails our stocks to an amount equal to 20% of our annual production, immediately before the start of the new crop.

We are in on this, whether we like it or not, we are within the scope of those shackles, labelled the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement of 1951.

Oh, to be an ostrich and bury our future in the sunbaked soil of the Caribbean Islands . . .

Yankees interested

And now the Yankees headed by millionaire Eugene Black, have issued their demands on British Guiana—the report of the International Bank mission which spent six weeks there early this year.

For Jamaica, Wall Street demanded permission to invest £34 million, for B.G., they demand 50 million West Indian dollars . . . but why all this "international" interest in our Caribbean?

Three guesses: we are stuck on the globe, old Columbus is alleged to have discovered that.

SOMEBODY IS AFTER SOMETHING WE HAVE.

World ties

We have to be INTERNATIONAL, and Rojas with Pearl Branch Lennox Pierre (Trinidad) Janet Jagan, Sidney King, Martin Carter (British Guiana) Daphne Campbell, Harry Drayton, Frank Minott (Jamaica) will tell you of their INTERNATIONAL experiences. They are contributing to the peoples fight for world peace, Social Security, Women's co-operation, and youth friendship around the globe. These opportunities are provided by the WORLD PEACE COUNCIL, the WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS, the WORLD FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC YOUTH, the WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION and so on, and so on . . .

No bans, no bribery, no Rance!

Oh, what unity, in the great struggle to raise living standards, to provide schools, creches, nurseries, jobs, opportunities for all.

People's Victory

In contrast, supporters of the Yankee organisation (I.C.F.T.U.) have withdrawn the Barbados Workers Union from the CARIBBEAN LABOUR CONGRESS. They prevent Trinidadians from visiting Jamaica, Jamaicans from visiting Barbados, Guianese from visiting St. Vincent—and then came the bombshell, the historic victory of the Peoples Political Party led by Jagan in British Guiana.

Now there was the cat among the pigeons, Grantley's trade union is panicked, Barbados newspapers scream.

"I.C.F.T.U., probe B.W.U. Funds"

Police stalk militant politicians and trade unionists, the iron curtain falls, the people fight back and our enemies are in flight.

London, New York, Stockholm and Washington have the jitters, but the sugar workers, wharf men and all our people gird themselves for the greater struggle, the final battle yet to come, for Peace and National Independence.

'is the University of Hunger the wide waste'

by **MARTIN CARTER**

is the university of hunger the wide waste
is the pilgrimage of man the long march
the print of hunger wanders in the land
the green tree bends above the long forgotten
the plains of life arise up and fall in spasms
the roofs of men are fused in misery.

They come treading in the hoof marks of the
mule
passing the ancient bridge
the grave of pride
the sudden flight
the terror and the time.

They come from the distant village of the flood
passing from middle air to middle earth
in the common hours of nakedness.
Twin bars of hunger mark their metal brows
twin seasons mock them
passing drought and flood

is the dark ones
the half sunken in the land
is they who had no voice in the emptiness
in the unbelievable
in the shadowless.

They come treading on the mud floor of the
year
mingling with dark heavy waters
and the sea sound of the eyeless flitting bat
O long is the march of men and long is the
life
and wide is the span.

is air dust and the long distance of memory
is the hour of rain when sleepless toads are
silent
is broken chimneys smokeless in the wind
is brown trash huts and jagged mounds of
iron.

They come in long lines
towards the broad city
is the golden moon like a big coin in the sky
is the floor of bone beneath the floor of flesh
is the beak of sickness breaking on the stone
O long is the march of men and long is the life
and wide is the span
O cold is the cruel wind blowing
O cold is the hoe in the ground.

They come like seabirds
flapping in the wake of a boat
is the torture of sunset in purple bandages
is the powder of fire spread like dust in the
sunlight
is the water melodies of white foam on wrin-
kled sand.

The long streets of night move up and down
baring the thighs of a woman
and the cavern of generation
the beating drum returns and dies away
the cocks of dawn stand up and crow like
bugles.

is they who rose early in the morning
watching the moon die in the dawn
is they who heard the shell blow and the iron
clang
is they who had no voice in the emptiness
in the unbelievable
in the shadowless
O long is the march of men and long is the
life
and wide is the span.

A Year of Achievement

First Congress of W.I. Independence Party

THE NEWLY formed progressive party in
Trinidad, the West Indian Independence
Party, held its first Party Congress on July
19th in Port-of-Spain.

Party Chairman comrade Lennox Pierre
was absent—a delegate to the World Youth
Festival—and the chair was taken by Vice-
Chairman John Rojas, who is also President
of the Oilfield Workers Trade Union.

In his greetings to Congress, Com. Lennox Pierre
who was attending the World Youth Festival in
Rumania, expressed regret at not being able to be
present on such a historic occasion. "It is only the
extreme urgency of the need for Peace and Friend-
ship and the promotion of mutual understanding
among peoples that could have induced me to be
absent from this the First Congress of our Party."

Policy of Unity

The message continued that our Party in its first
year of struggle has consistently toed the line in its
policy of uniting the forces of the working class,
peasants, progressive intellectuals, and even liberal
sections of the capitalist class, in our struggle for
independence. However, the laurels of a year's
achievement must go to only a limited few. The
Chairman therefore urged that under the guidance
of the Party's leadership, the rank and file members
should become more active. "This immediate
guidance will of course become less and less necessary
as Comrades develop in theory and practice."

Greetings from other kindred organisations were
read. The Party received greetings from: The
People's Political Party of St. Vincent, the People's
Progressive Party of B.G., the Demerara Youth Rally,
the People's Educational Organisation of Jamaica,
The Grenada Manual and Mental Workers Union,
the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch), the
People's United Party of Barbados, Com. Ferdinand
Smith, and others.

Last effort

Highlight of the Congress was the Congress
Report read by Com. John La Rose, Secretary-
General. He stated—

"Our First Party Congress meets at a time when
American Imperialism, aiding and abetting the corrupt
regime of Syngman Rhee, is obstructing an armistice
in Korea; at a time when colonial wars are being
waged against the Kenya people, in Malaya and Viet
Nam; when what was originally called police
emergency action against Mau Mau terrorists in
Kenya has turned out to be a full-scale colonial war
against the Kenya people.

"This our first Party Congress is also witnessing
a determined bid by world reaction, led by American
Imperialism, to create a centre of conflict in Germany
similar to what still exists in Korea.

Banner raised

"We are meeting at a time when colonial and
semi-colonial peoples in varying degrees have raised
the standard of revolt here in the West Indies, all
over Latin America, Africa, in the Middle and Far
East. What we, who are gathered at this Congress,
are witnessing in our time is the last-ditch effort of

world imperialism to save itself from the dunghap
to which it will most certainly be consigned by the
peoples of all lands.

However, precisely because of this frenzied last-
ditch effort of world imperialism, all the democratic
ideals of which the capitalist democracies boasted in
the past, are now trampled in the dust and world
imperialism has taken the path of fascism and war.
But in the name of our Party Congress I would like
to repeat these well-known words: 'Peace will be
preserved and consolidated if the peoples will take
the cause of preserving Peace into their own hands
and defend it to the end'. 'We have taken the cause
of Peace and Independence in our own hands and
will defend it till we win.'

People's Demands

The report went on to review the year's work of
the Party. The Party had agitated locally against
every issue that affected the life of the working class,
and had carried out a resolute struggle for the
immediate demands of the people. At the same time
the Party further agitated for the realisation of its
ultimate goal—independence.

On the West Indian plane the party had always
affirmed its solidarity with the peoples' struggle
throughout the Caribbean, and joyfully hailed the
recent election victory of the P.P.P., of B.G., as a
great victory and another step towards the winning
of complete Independence.

The party, since its formation, had always supported,
and will continue to support, the struggle of the
working class the world over, and especially our own
struggle for West Indian Independence.

"Long live the struggle of the working class!"
Thus ended the report of the General Secretary.

After a lively and inspiring discussion on the report,
the Congress listened to the report of the Treasurer,
Com. Quintin O'Connor. The state of the party's
finance was outlined and recommendations were made
for its improvement.

Constitution

Next stage of the Party's Constitution. This was
done, following a few amendments, and the election
of officers to the Central Executive Committee
followed. Three changes were made on this Com-
mittee, together with the addition of another member
to the Committee, thus making the total number 17
instead of the former 16.

The Congress then adopted the following
resolutions:

- Calling on Government to revoke bans on
literature and travel in the West Indies.
- Condemnation of all colonial wars as a step
to deny colonial peoples their right to
Independence.
- Resolution adopting the Constitution of the
Party.
- Resolution adopting the Provisional Statement
and Fundamental Programme of the Party.
- Resolution calling for W.I. Federation with
Independence.

The Congress was then brought to an end by the
singing of the Internationale.

BILLY STRACHAN IN HOSPITAL AGAIN

BILLY STRACHAN, Secretary of the Carib-
bean Labour Congress (London Branch),
who four months ago underwent a hip opera-
tion as a result of a war injury, has had to
go back to hospital for a further operation.
It is believed that he will be in for a long
period, and any friends wishing to cheer him
up should write to him at Ward C2, Fulham
Hospital, St. Dunstan Road, Hammersmith.
Visiting time is from 7 to 7.30 p.m. every day,
but only two visiting cards are available, so
any friends wishing to visit Billy may contact
Joyce Strachan, Maida Vale 9095.

Comrade Strachan recently spent three
weeks in Czechoslovakia from which he re-
turned very much enthused by his first visit
to a people's democratic country.

GOOD JOURNEY

FAREWELL to Pansy and Lionel Jeffrey and their
little one, who have had enough of England's
pleasant climate and are returning to the MUDLAND
(B.G. to foreigners) to continue the sweet mysteries
of life.

They are sailing by the *Colombie* on October 9th,
and members of the C.L.C (L.B.) wish Pansy and
Jeff, who have both been members of the E.C., all
the best on their return home.

Next Issue

NOVEMBER

Special Anniversary Number

Is Foreign Capital a Boon? — 'Not on your life'

UNEMPLOYMENT is on the increase in the West Indies. Already it is estimated that some forty per cent of the working population is affected. This is a serious matter, and one which calls for constructive efforts on behalf of the British Administration.

But on the light of events, one is led to the conclusion that the old policy of *laissez faire* is being followed, in the hope that, with the encouragement of increased foreign capital investment in our country, the difficulty may, in conjunction with the Emigration policy, eventually straighten itself out.

But will it?

Their real aim

Surely none of our people seriously believes that foreign capitalists are Big Hearted Uncles with such great affection for us that they, upon hearing of our hardships are falling over themselves in a passionate desire to help?

Not on your life!

Their aim is not to pour money into a country to help its people, but to help themselves by taking a few more millions out. And while the more unfortunates there are seeking the means to earn a living, the cheaper is the labour to exploit the natural resources of the place.

Luxury and squalor

In Jamaica alone more foreign capital has been poured into the Island in the past ten years than ever before in its history. Palatial residences have sprung up amid vast estates whilst business premises and luxury hotels have also appeared. Side by side with these luxuries lies the filth and squalor of the workers' huts and, while millions of pounds of untaxed profits goes abroad to fill the coffers of absentee investors, the government complains that

SAYS

ERIC DESLANDES

who in a previous issue described the luxurious living of foreign capitalists and moneybags in Jamaica.

they haven't enough money to implement social services, like old age pensions, unemployment benefits and free health services, etc.

Many of these investors still really believe that West Indians are some sort of poor backward creatures who are perfectly helpless when it comes to conducting their own affairs or governing themselves. So civilised capitalists must do it for them.

Nevertheless, the coloured peoples are not so sure about this "civilisation racket". We don't fall for it any more. We have seen the efforts of these "civilised" persons result in two devastating World wars in a quarter of a century with another in the offing. We know that when the Guv'ors start these scraps the governed peoples will be told to work harder and produce more, so that when victory comes we can enjoy a little more unemployment and high costs of living, to help the Boss to get on his feet.

Waking up

However, one has only to look at British Guiana to see the Great awakening.

West Indians do not want this kind of civilisation. With the advance of Worker's education and our experience gathered by over three hundred years of British rule we have found that we will be far better off under our own government, and that the resources of our land can provide better standards for ALL instead of for the FEW.

But there will not be any improvement in our own position until we have achieved Independence and self-government under our own West Indian Representatives. Then and only then will we be truly, "masters of our own destiny".

WE STAND BY OUR WORD — WE REFUSE TO DIE!

EARLY in its publication we announced that "Caribbean News" was here to stay, that we had no intention of packing up after the first issue or two. Now, nearly a year afterwards, WE STAND BY THAT PRO-
NOUNCEMENT.

We are sticking through thick and thin despite the innumerable problems encountered in the publication of a paper of this nature.

The voluntary staff and supporters of the paper are determined to carry on for a very good reason.

The motives which prompted the publication of our monthly could have had no connection with monetary returns.

The need for a paper which would be a weapon in the fight for West Indian Independence was keenly felt a year ago, and that need has been proved by the comments of welcome and appreciation received from the leading peoples' organisations in the West Indies. In fact it is greater now and will be in the future, as the struggle reaches higher levels.

What we shall try to do is to improve the character of the paper and increase its circulation.

But we must inform our readers and supporters that their paper is facing serious difficulties—the most pressing and immediate being finance.

The first result of this financial problem

was seen when our last issue had to cover two months (July-August). We have been again forced in this issue to "double-up" (September-October), a practice which we do not find easy to accept.

From the beginning we realised, as we told our readers, that it would be impossible to run

Editorial

the paper on sales only, that we had to have a "fighting fund" of regular support from readers.

And now we have devised a method of regularising our Fighting Fund, of really getting it going. Collecting cards are now being used to enable readers to contribute whatever they can contribute for the paper. These specially printed cards will be in the possession of people who sell the paper, and readers will be helping their paper tremendously if they would give something every month to the FUND.

Every month Comrade Ann Simms will report in the columns of the paper exactly how much has been collected. Readers who want to send their contributions in by post should address letters to Ann Simms, 41 Eresby Rd., N.W.6 Telephone: Maida Vale 6720.

Remember that we can be strong and vigorous in championing the cause of Independence for our homeland only to the extent that our readers actively give their support making

OFFICE HOURS

MEMBERS and friends of the C.L.C. (London Branch) will be pleased to know that the office at 17 Bishop's Bridge Road, will be open every night from Monday to Friday, between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. The office is on the third floor. Visitors will be welcome.

If you have any matter to discuss just drop in and do so; or just come in some time to have a look in. Get to know the Caribbean Labour Congress and its work.

"Caribbean News" their paper, and be always on watch to see it through the storms that beset its life.

WE PLEDGE TO DO OUR DUTY, AND IN DOING SO WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

Editorial Board.

SOLIDARITY

AT the beginning of June the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) received an urgent appeal from the Grenada Manual and Mental Workers Union. This letter dated 26th May stated, "It is with a deep sense of solemnity and spirit of comradeship that we hereunder communicate our grievance to you seeking your help, wishing at the same time your organisation is enjoying the best of brotherly love and prosperity."

The letter went on to state that the Hon. Eric Matthew Gairy, President of the BMM-WU, who is a member of the Executive and Legislative Councils of Grenada, had had to pay almost 1600 dollars in a slander action brought by an English planter.

The Executive Committee of the C. L. C. (LB) immediately organised an appeal for Gairy. In response to this appeal £5 was sent by the North London District Committee of the Amalgamated Trades Union, who were at the moment involved in a national strike, and the World Federation of Trade Unions immediately sent £200.

Contrast

These actions of solidarity are in direct contrast to the actions of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and the British Trades Union Congress, which did not even acknowledge the letters sent them. The W.F.T.U. did not enquire into the political record or the political beliefs of Gairy. This is very different from the experience of some West Indian organisations that have had 'aid' from the I.C.F.T.U., which has always demanded complete acceptance of their policies before 'helping' any union.

It is a known fact that the C.L.C.(LB) is strongly opposed to the stand taken by the GMMWU on certain issues, e.g., Joining the Caribbean Labour Congress. But irrespective of the differences which exist, the C.L.C. (London Branch), would never stand by and see British Imperialism strike down the leader of the organised workers of Grenada.

This support for Gairy does not mean support for the policies pursued or that may be pursued by Gairy. We will continue to campaign for the unity of all West Indian trade unions and for the complete unity of all West Indian people in the struggle against Imperialism.

Bucharest, Festival Report

An unforgettable event

says IRMA HILLAIRE
delegate of Trinidad
& Tobago Youth Council

THE Fourth World Youth Festival was agreat and joyful meeting between youths throughout the world. It was unforgettable for most of us, but for me, it was the most thrilling experience of my life.

One of the deepest impressions of the Festival was the opening ceremony. After a very warm welcome extended to us by over one hundred Rumanian youths, who had come to greet us at the station with song and music, we prepared for the opening of the Festival the following day. The ceremony was tremendous. We marched in our National costumes around the monstrous 23rd August Stadium, built especially for the Festival. Over 80,000 people from the stadium cheered us with applause and flowers. The spirit of friendship and solidarity animated us, as we marched with the English, French, Africans and people from the most remote countries of the world, about whom we had only read. ...

Peace and Friendship

White doves fluttered up from the stadium carrying messages far and wide that the Festival had begun. A great choir of 20,000 Rumanian youth thrilled us with various songs of youth. As an insight to the wonderful programmes that would follow, we saw a mass sports demonstration presented by Rumanian youth. Towards the end of this programme, they grouped their bodies into the words "peace and friendship" translated into several languages, and into the emblem of the Festival.

It was difficult to choose from the rich and varied programme presented to us each day, which included several national shows, competitions for the best dances and plays, exhibitions, contests for young singers, musicians and painters. Inter delegation meetings were arranged. It was interesting to meet young people of different creeds, religions and political convictions with whom we were able to hold friendly discussions. I realized from these delegation meetings how cruel war is, as it was proven here that the world youth have nothing but fraternal love for each other.

Smiling Faces

I could never forget the way these hospitable Rumanian people received us when we walked the streets. Young and old greeted us with love, peace and friendship.

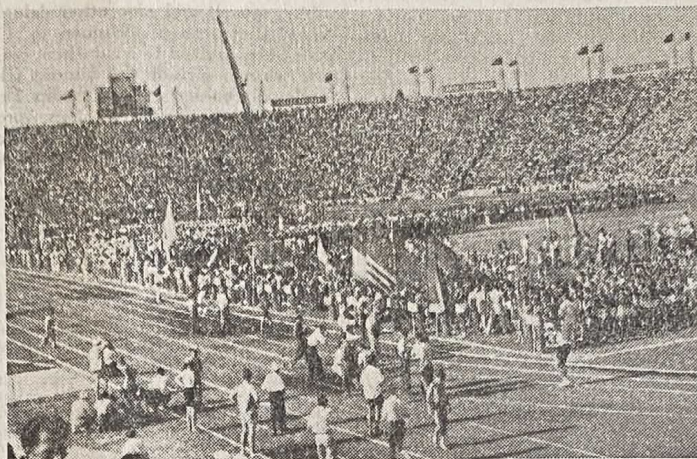
We visited the city. Lofty white buildings gleamed in the bright sun, libraries, parks and art galleries adorned the streets everywhere. Happy smiling Rumanians surrounded us, attracted by our colour,

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Friendship with the Koreans



The Fourth World Festival of Youth and Students for Peace and Friendship brought together over 30,000 young people from 111 countries, including 111 from the West Indies. These young people showed to the World that in practice mankind can live in peace, given the will to do so, representing as they did all political, religious, creeds and colours having in common a striving for friendship. Below is a scene from the opening ceremony.



The Black Man's Reception in a new world

THE fourth world youth festival held in Bucharest served as a great teacher to me, a youth of an oppressed colonial territory, in the social, economic and cultural ways. We learned many things from the Festival, and made many friends.

The thing that impressed me most at the Festival was the Rumanian's approach to a black man, hospitable and sweet. Not as if he were an inferior being or savage; not with frowning looks or hateful eyes; not with shameful steps; not with the approach of brutish fascism, as experienced to many of us in England America and South Africa; but a humanitarian approach that only could be displayed by nations which stand for peace and friendship the world over.

I, as a black man, was never happy living in a society where the majority was white, until I went to Bucharest. It was as though

and embraced us showing their appreciation and love for the coloured race. Almost all of them spoke two or three foreign languages. They conversed with us in either French, Spanish or German and were ever so eager to find out all details about the countries from which we came. These were the great majority and they were sons and daughters of working class people. They were healthy, strong, and filled with enthusiasm and confidence of a bright future. Their life was enriched by good educational facilities and various forms of recreation.

In most of the parks there were open air theatres, lakes where swimming and boating could be enjoyed and numerous bookshops. How happy were these people whose creative ability was encouraged, whose talents were given opportunity to develop and poured out in so many forms. Their lives are not scourged by snobbery or prejudices. Doctors, Lawyers and the working class people all live and work together as one family.

Contrast

I was forced to compare these conditions with those prevailing in the West Indies, and I thought how frustrating it really is for our youths. How limited are the social, educational and recreational facilities provided us. Our youth who are so full of creative capacity, and equally enthusiastic, are daunted by poverty, anguish of war and unemployment.

The memory of the Festival will be a great incentive to our colonial youth in our fight for a better future, and especially to the Trinidad and Tobago Youth Council which is now in the process of reorganization to provide better facilities for the underprivileged youth of our Colony.

I were living in a society where all the people were of the same pigment as my own. I never had a scornful look during my stay in Rumania. As a matter of fact, the people of Rumania wear an expression of freedom and

by Carlton Bayley

happiness. The facial expressions of the people of Rumania are enough to make one realize how essential and happy life is meant to be. In the tramway, in stores, in restaurants, the perenitsa ring, it was the same—love, human treatment, and the slogan of the youth "Pace si Prietenie" (Peace and Friendship).

The Rumanian people though happy, are determined to build higher stages of Socialism in their country and are working hard to attain it.

HOSPITALITY

The Festival taught us not only about the Rumanian people, for there were thousands of delegates from other lands, each having something to say and do. We learned collectively as we discussed various problems with our brothers and sisters from different countries.

Although there is plenty to say about the Festival and Bucharest, I must not forget to mention the hospitality shown to us in other socialist lands such as the German Democratic Republic, Peoples' Hungary and Czechoslovakia; and last, but not least, the Soviet ship "Beloostrov" that took us from the Surrey Docks to East Germany. It was on the "Beloostrov" that many black delegates received the treatment as real human beings, and it was a testimonial of what we should expect on our way to the Festival from the Peoples' Democracies. And sure enough, the testimonial was true. As we arrived at these socialist countries, East Germany, Hungary and Czechoslovakia, we received the same high level hospitality.

This fourth world Youth Festival held in Bucharest, August 1953, will live long in my memory. It strengthens the chain of unbreakable friendship that binds the youth of oppressed colonial territories and those of other countries.

The 'virtues' of Arbitration

Bauxite workers' claim

From Dudley Mitchell
Kingstown, 11th. August

A strong call for the return of Slave Labour to this Colony in order to induce Foreign Capitalists to "invest" and "assist" in Industrial development was made here recently by Don Douglas Judah and Mr. Leslie Ashenheim, representing the Bauxite Companies in the current wage dispute arbitration, involving Alumina (Jamaica) Co. Ltd., and its 700 employees, who were represented by the National Workers' Union.

The pro-slave-labour advocates were addressing the arbitrator, Mr. C. G. Honeyman, a Colonial Office labour official, who was sent here by the British Ministry of Labour. The case for the workers was presented by Mr. N. W. Manley, Q.C., Leader of the once militant Peoples' National Party and legal adviser of the affiliated National Workers' Union. Formally the Union had claimed a flat rate of 4/- per hour for unskilled and 10/- for skilled workers. At present the Company pays a minimum hour-wage of 1/4 to a maximum of 3/10, applicable to two categories, first class electricians and first class excavators.

COMPROMISE

Manley's argument before the arbitrator, however, amounted to a compromise between the Bauxite plunderers and the Union, without the workers' consent. After days of hollow talk, quoting of statistics, showing how American and Canadian workers in the same industry were paid ten times the wage of the Jamaicans, and how these companies were especially ruthless in the exploitation of Colonial workers, Manley, the working class splitter, completely exposed himself and his Union as he shamelessly reduced the original 10/- demand for skilled workmen to 6/5d.

In his address Manley showed the wage differentials between Jamaica and Canada and the United States. He told the arbitrator that the union was very young and could not afford Strike Pay so he was prepared to conduct the negotiation on a compromise basis. Manley went on to point out how much it would cost a worker per hour to exist normally in Jamaica. His conclusion was that it would take at least 4/- which the Union was claiming.

EMPLOYERS' PIFFLE

Replying for the Employers, Douglas Judah, "Farmers' Party Treasurer, who has a long record of anti-Labour activities in this country, "implored" the Colonial Office Agent, Honeyman, to reject the union's demand, which, he said would "hamper" the island's industrial development, and at the same time create a bad precedent for Labour relations. Also one of Kingston's Criminal Lawyers, Judah claimed that "ability to pay" did not apply to this particular Company. It was his opinion that claims were "fantastic" and would lead to chaos.

His fellow-traveller, Leslie Ashenheim, was more brazen in his condemnation of the 700 workers involved, when he said that paying an ordinary common labourer 4/- per hour would not only ruin the Company, but ruin the workers themselves who would become lazy and proud beyond the control of the employers.

HOT BARRAGE

At a lecture held at the Local Institute, Honeyman tried to show the Jamaican public the "virtues" of arbitration. He was, however, prevented from putting it over as he had expected. As a barrage of working class questions took him from the floor he suddenly cut his talk short by announcing "no more questions".

Now the arbitration is over and the workers and the entire Jamaican people are looking forward, with heavy hearts, to what this award will mean to them.

In the meanwhile it is predicted in official circles that the Honeyman "award" will be as scandalous, if not worse than the notorious Gleaner and similar awards.

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THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS IN PEOPLE'S RUMANIA

ON the invitation of the Women's Democratic Federation of the Rumania People's Republic, myself and nine other delegates to the World Congress of Women in Copenhagen have been invited to visit their country. The nine women include the famous Elisa Branco of Brazil, holder of the Stalin Peace award for her outstanding work, two women leaders of Cuba, two from Egypt, two from Switzerland and two from the British West Indies.

Today we visited a tobacco factory producing 650,000 cigarettes daily and employing some 800 workers, the majority being women. There I saw the people at work in large airy rooms with special ventilation. The basic wages are established by the government in consultation with the workers through their trade unions. Every worker, however, can receive wages far above the basic (which is quite adequate) depending on the quality and quantity of his production. There are canteens on the compound where wholesome lunches can be purchased at extremely low prices.

I visited a lovely creche and a day nursery where mothers leave their children while working. For the little babies there were large bright rooms equipped with modern baby cots and special baths; for the tiny tots there were play rooms with small furniture and for the slightly older children, there were rooms with toys, a marionette stage and bathrooms with wash basins at a convenient height.

Greetings to B.G.

Also for the workers of the same factory there was a small well equipped hospital, which is just for workers who are not very sick, a modern dental surgery providing free dentistry of all types for all the workers aside from the medical clinic.

The tobacco factory workers of Bucharest sent their warm greetings to the tobacco workers of British Guiana and expressed their desire that the bonds of friendship be strengthened between all workers in the struggle for world peace.

Later in the day a Secretary of the Central Council of Trade Unions of the Rumanian People's Republic interviewed us and gave full answers to many questions asked. She pointed out that there was a fundamental difference in the functions of trade unions existing in capitalist countries and those in the socialist countries. In the capitalist countries the unions were part of the class struggle of the workers seeking better working conditions and wages from their employers. In the new democracies, the trade unions had a different function, as the class struggle no longer existed, and since it was no longer necessary for workers to force better wages from their employers, production was socialised.

Here, therefore, the trade unions had the job of

by

JANET

JAGAN



Secretary of P.P.P. and Deputy Speaker,
British Guiana House of Assembly

improving the social benefits for workers such as medical care, creches, cultural activities. Further they sought to increase production in order to fulfill the country's five year plan which would benefit all workers and would also assist in lowering prices. The unions also have the task of seeing that all the workers receive all the benefits granted to them constitutionally. One of the most important functions of the trade unions is to participate in the negotiations for "collective contracts" which is the contract concerning production and social benefits drawn up between the factory and the workers.

Social Insurance

The Central Council of Trades Unions takes care of the huge grant by the Government for social insurance. It also arranges for trade union schools and various forms of workers education, and arranges for rest resorts for workers when they receive their annual holiday with pay. There is not space to mention all the benefits workers in Rumania receive as compared to our workers, but I would mention that for overtime (more than 8 hours of work per day) a worker receives time and one-half for the first two hours and double time for overtime over the first two hours. Workers are pensioned at the age of 50 for women and 55 years for men.

There are many lessons we can learn from the great strides made forward by the new democracies. They are building a new way of life and no amount of slander by the press can hinder their progress. They tell us of the "Iron Curtain". In my travels I have encountered only one set of "Iron Curtains" and those were in the British Caribbean.

Rhythmic Hips

ON Saturday evening — the 9th September, members and friends of the C.L.C. danced again at the Royal Hotel to the music of Ivor Hunt's band.

After a long interval in the usual series of dances sponsored by the C.L.C., all present seemed happy to renew acquaintances.

Special feature of the evening was the singing of calypsos by the delegates to the World Youth Festival held in Bucharest during August. This group, still in the Festival spirit, had the crowd responding gleefully. All around, hips moved in smooth rhythmic style like ripples of the Caribbean lapping the island beaches in answer to soft zephyrs.

Carlton Bayley, of British Guiana, sang a calypso, one of his own compositions, on the recent B.G. elections.

SUGAR STRIKE

from page 1

There is presently a deadlock in the negotiations as the Sugar Producers are unwilling to meet on the terms put forward by the Union.

Other workers have struck in support of the sugar workers. These include Post Office workers, public works and other Government employees, dock and sawmill workers.

The sugar workers are prepared to hold out until the issues are settled. The question of union recognition has been fought for several years, but the Sugar Producers have refused to recognise the G.I.W.U., preferring to deal with the Manpower Citizens Association Union, which has for years lost the confidence of the workers in the industry.

A Bill coming before the House of Assembly today with every chance of being approved would recognise the union having the majority of members in the industry.

IN the Guiana House of Assembly, the Hon. Sydney King, Minister in the Government led a successful attack against a proposal to send delegates to meet the Queen in Jamaica. The opposition, he declared, in making their plea "displayed the intellect of grovelling worms".

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